

March 12, 2018

TO: Flow team

FROM: Anne Mullan

Re: March 2018 flows in North Santiam

Following our conversation last week where the Corps asked us to consider alternatives to the RPA flow targets for the North Santiam in March, we have weighed the following:

- Steelhead passage over Willamette Falls is later than usual, with low number having passed to date, possibly due to colder temperatures.
- The Corps provided NRCS Projections showing likely departures from the Detroit Reservoir rule curve. These show the elevation that allows temperature operations to benefit incubating Chinook later in the year will only be reached for a short period.
- Calculations of inflow and storage under alternative releases, using the spreadsheet model Greg Taylor provided.
- NWS River Forecast Center trend projections for the upcoming March flows into Detroit.

We propose to begin increasing releases from the approximately 1000 cfs to 1200 cfs during the week of March 12, and holding there for the rest of March, unless the rule curve is met for a week or longer. Should that occur, we would like to reconsider the flow targets. In addition as steelhead counts at both Willamette Falls and the Bennett Dams are provided, we anticipate increased flows in April and possibly May to be closer to RPA targets. This is subject to change as the snowmelt and precipitation inputs are better estimated later in March.